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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 369
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to those sterling individuals who, through their dedication, courage and faith, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, these praiseworthy individuals have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good and are a credit to their respective professions, their communities and their families; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Desmond Tutu is most assuredly one such distinguished person who is deserving of special praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, born in Klerdsdorp, South Africa, Desmond Tutu grew up as the son of a schoolteacher and domestic worker; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Johannesburg Bantu High School, Archbishop Tutu decided to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career as a schoolteacher; and

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WHEREAS, after earning a teacher's diploma from Pretoria Normal College, Desmond Tutu matriculated at the University of South Africa to study for his Bachelor of Arts degree; and

WHEREAS, he rendered admirable service as a distinguished teacher at his alma mater, Johannesburg Bantu High School, for a year before moving to Munsieville High School in Krugersdorp for three years; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Archbishop Tutu answered his higher calling and became ordained at St. Peter's Theological College in Rosettenville; and

WHEREAS, the Archbishop received his Licentiate in Theology in 1960 and was ordained into the priesthood in Johannesburg the following year; and

WHEREAS, shortly after he was ordained, Desmond Tutu studied abroad in London, where he obtained the Bachelor of Divinity Honours and Master of Theology degrees; and

WHEREAS, returning to South Africa in 1967, Archbishop Tutu began work at the Federal Theological Seminary in Alice, where he was also the esteemed chaplain of the University of Fort Hare; and

WHEREAS, three years later, the Archbishop transferred to the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland to fulfill the post of lecturer in the Department of Theology; and

WHEREAS, he returned to England to serve as the esteemed Associate Director of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches in Kent; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Tutu briefly filled the position of Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral of Johannesburg in 1975 prior to his stint as the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), an illustrious organization representing all of the major Christian churches in South Africa; he held this important post from 1978 – 85; and

WHEREAS, as the General Secretary of SACC, Archbishop Tutu gained worldwide recognition for his relentless commitment to the cause of ecumenism and racial harmony; and

WHEREAS, under his able leadership, the SACC became an important institution in South African spiritual and political life as the voice for many South African christians; and

WHEREAS, Desmond Tutu bravely spoke out against the injustice of the apartheid system and lead the crusade for racial conciliation in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, in recognition for his untiring and selfless pursuit at establishing racial balance in his homeland of South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was honored with the highest award the world can offer – the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Desmond Tutu was elected the Bishop of Johannesburg; in this position, the good bishop successfully continued his efforts to bridge the chasm between blacks and whites; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Anglican Church expressed its faith and trust in Archbishop Tutu by appointing him to the esteemed post of Archbishop of Cape Town; he was elected as President of the All Africa Conference of Churches the following year; and

WHEREAS, Desmond Tutu lent his noteworthy talents to Kings College in London as a Fellow in 1987; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, South African President Nelson Mandela appointed the Archbishop to chair South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established to investigate human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, after retiring as the Archbishop of Cape Town in June of 1996, Desmond Tutu retained his archbishop status by being bestowed with the illustrious title of Archbishop Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Tutu is currently serving with acumen as a Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Theology at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, while also rendering astute service as the Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape; and

WHEREAS, he also chairs the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and has been awarded a number of honorary degrees from several universities, including Harvard, Oxford,

Columbia, Emory, the Ruhr, Kent, Aberdeen, Cape Town, Witwatersrand and the University of South Africa; and

WHEREAS, Desmond Tutu is the celebrated author of five collections of sermons and writings, including *Crying in the Wilderness*, *Hope and Suffering: Sermons and Speeches*, *the Words of Desmond Tutu*, *The Rainbow People of God*, and *The Essential Desmond Tutu*; and

WHEREAS, the Archbishop is the deserving recipient of numerous awards, most notably the Order for Meritorious Service Gold Award presented by President Nelson Mandela, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion, the Prix d'Athene (Onassis Foundation), the Family of Man Gold Medal Award and the Martin Luther King Jr. Non-violent Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Desmond Tutu is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his adoring wife, Leah, his three daughters, his son, and his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary lifetime, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been firmly committed to representing the best interests of his country and his faith; his diplomacy and far-reaching abilities as a mediator should serve as a benchmark for national leaders and other officials worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Tutu is renowned for his honesty, dedication and stalwart dedication to justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, Desmond Tutu is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish him and is tremendously admired by friends and associates; and

WHEREAS, it is rare when a person of Archbishop Tutu's walks among us; his brilliance shines down on us as he works assiduously to improve the quality of life for us all; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and a friend, Desmond Tutu is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Archbishop Desmond Tutu for his meritorious service and applaud his endless pursuit of excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.